

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION REPORT TO MINISTERS

REF: USNATO 6470

THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS TEXT OF DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS ON
RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION WHICH DPC WILL CONSIDER ON
NOV 26. AS DISCUSSED REFTTEL, THIS REPORT IS STILL SUBJECT TO
CONFIRMATION BY THE NETHERLANDS. MISSION RECOMMENDS US
APPROVAL OF REPORT IN PRESENT FORM. ACTION REQUESTED:
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY NOV 25.

BEGIN TEXT:

RATIONALISATION AND SPECIALISATION OF DEFENCE TASKS
REPORT BY THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE
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IN PERMANENT SESSION

INTRODUCTION

1. IT IS NOW 18 MONTHS SINCE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SPECIALISATION AND RATIONALISATION WITHIN NATO WERE FIRST DISCUSSED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. DURING THE INTERVAL A NUMBER OF STUDIES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN WHERE THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN TO DEFINE THE AREAS WHERE PROGRESS COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVED.

2. IN ADDITION CERTAIN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE NETHERLANDS FORCES WERE DISCUSSED BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1973(1). IT WAS AGREED THAT IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES F.15 AIRCRAFT IN CENTRAL EUROPE TOWARDS THE END OF THE DECADE, THE NETHERLANDS AIR FORCE, IF IT WERE TO SPECIALISE WHEN REPLACING ITS CURRENT F104G AIRCRAFT, SHOULD GIVE UP THE HIGH-LEVEL AIR DEFENCE ROLE AND CONCENTRATE ON CONVENTIONAL OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATIONS WITH A CAPABILITY FOR LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY AND A LIMITED NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THOSE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC THE WAYS BY WHICH NUCLEAR SUPPORT FOR 1 NL CORPS COULD BE PROVIDED WHEN THE OBSOLETE HONEST JOHN WEAPON SYSTEM WAS PHASED OUT OF THE NETHERLANDS ARMY IN THE COMING YEARS; HOWEVER IN THE COURSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE NO OPERATIONAL OR FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES TO BE ACHIEVED IN THIS WAY. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS NOW DECIDED TO PURCHASE THE LANCE WEAPON SYSTEM IN A NON-NUCLEAR VERSION, AND TO MAN AND MAINTAIN IT IN THE NETHERLANDS FORCES.

3. IN JUNE THIS YEAR THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION INFORMED MINISTERS THAT THERE WAS A GROWING CONVICTION WITHIN NATO THAT THE CONCEPT OF SPECIALISATION COULD LEAD TO WORTHWHILE RESULTS BEARING IN MIND THAT THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO OPTIMISE NATO'S COLLECTIVE DEFENCE EFFORT THROUGH CO-OPERATION.

(1) DPC/D(73)31, 3RD DECEMBER, 1973.

MINISTERS WERE ABLE TO RECORD THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR FURTHER WORK IN THE FIELDS OF RATIONALISATION AND SPECIALISATION BUT STRESSED THAT THIS MUST NOT IMPLY ANY REDUCTION OF DEFENCE EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED(1). IN PARTICULAR IT WAS AGREED THAT HIGH PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO STUDYING A MATRIX CONCEPT TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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CIRCULATED BY THE UNITED STATES (2); THIS WOULD INVOLVE TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN NATIONS IN ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONAL AREAS RELATED TO DEFENCE TASKS WITH THE AIM OF BROADENING THE SEARCH FOR A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF DEFENCE RESOURCES BY PLACING SPECIALISATION IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL RATIONALISATION.

(1) DPC/D(74)13, DATED 7TH JUNE, 1974.

(2) CIRCULATED BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION ON 31ST JULY, 1974.

(3) NORWEGIAN DELEGATION LETTER 5337/74/JL/TSB DATED 14TH NOV 1974.

CURRENT SITUATION

4. THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION HAS NOW SELECTED THREE AREAS AS SUITABLE FOR INITIAL STUDY AND SUBSEQUENT REPORT TO MINISTERS COMMENCING IN THE SPRING OF 1975. THESE ARE CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING, CONSOLIDATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND HOST NATION SUPPORT FOR WARTIME LINES OF COMMUNICATION. TERMS OF REFERENCE HAVE BEEN AGREED AND MACHINERY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THESE STUDIES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT THE MATRIX CIRCULATED BY THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE ADOPTED AS THE CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND TO THESE AND ANY SIMILAR STUDIES INITIATED, AND THAT THE REPORT OF THE LOGISTICS SUB-GROUP SHOULD BE THE STARTING POINT OF THE LOC STUDY. THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LOGISTICS SUB-GROUP TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP WITH A VIEW TO REPORTING ON SUITABLE SUBJECTS TO MINISTERS IN SPRING 1975.

5. THE ONLY REPORT SO FAR RECEIVED IS A PRELIMINARY ONE ON CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING(3). THE REPORT SUMMARISES THE RESULT OF SEVERAL YEARS WORK DURING WHICH NINE EUROTRAINING/NATO TRAINING CONFERENCE HAVE TAKEN PLACE. FORTH NINE POSSIBLE PROJECTS FOR CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING WERE STUDIED, OF WHICH 15 WERE FOUND UNSUITABLE AND THE REMAINDER ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION OR FURTHER STUDY. THE REPORT OUTLINES THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTIES FACING COUNTRIES; THESE INCLUDE LACK OF STANDARDISED EQUIPMENT, DIFFERENCES IN TACTICAL DOCTRINE AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, LACK OF FINANCIAL PROCEDURES FOR THE NECESSARY COMMON FUNDING, DIFFICULTIES IN EXPANDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE
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AND TRAINING FACILITIES AND THE LANGUAGE BARRIER. IN CONSIDERING THESE DIFFICULTIES THE REPORT GIVES PROMINANCE TO THE INADEQUATE AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT UNCOORDINATED TERMS OF REFERENCE UNDER WHICH THE EUROTRAINING AND NATO TRAINING GROUPS OPERATE AND THE QUESTION TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER MORE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE TAKEN UP AFTER THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DECEMBER. THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT ABSENCE OF POLITICAL WILL TO OVERCOME NATIONAL INTERESTS REMAINS THE PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK TO PROGRESS.

6. THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE OTHER AREAS AS TO THEIR SUITABILITY FOR STUDY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF RATIONALISATION AND SPECIALISATION.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT MINISTERS:

(A) TAKE NOTE OF PROGRESS TO DATE AND PLANS FOR CONTINUING WORK;

(B) INVITE STAFFS IN CAPITALS TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM

GUIDANCE AND CO-OPERATION FOR THE FURTHER WORK TO
BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN NATO;

(C) INVITE THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT
SESSION TO SUBMIT A FURTHER REPORT FOR THE SPRING
MINISTERIAL MEETING IN 1975.

END TEXT.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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